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REVOLUTION IN THE AIR

Kidnaping and Imprisonment of Western Labor Leaders May Cause Uprising of Working Class of Nation.

There is immediate danger of revolution in this country—the result of trouble between the miners and mine owners of Colorado. The miners of the West are organized into what is known as the Western Federation of Miners. The mine owners are organized into what they call the "Citizen's Alliance." The mine owners claim the right to maintain their organization, but have determined to destroy the organization of the laborers.

This trouble has been going on for years, and two years ago a state of war existed in Colorado.

The mine owners had, yet have, the courts, the civil authorities and the militia behind them. Two years ago, when the sheriff of Teller county refused to obey their commands, he was made to resign and ordered to leave the state. He did as ordered, of course. It was his only way of keeping out of the grave.

The mine owners imported negroes and thugs to take the places of the workers. While a number of these, who disliked the situation, were waiting for the train at Independence to leave, the depot was blown up and they were killed. At once it was telegraphed all over the country that it was "a damnable plot of the Western Federation." Blood hounds were put to work and they trailed to the hirelings of the mine owners. Investigation revealed that it was a carefully laid plan—that the wires that set off the fuse were laid under ground for hundreds of yards; that the militia was in full possession of the district and that no one not permitted to do so by the militia could have executed the plot. When it appeared ridiculous to attempt to charge the outrage to the miners the matter was dropped. In the mean time Haywood, Moyer, and other Federation leaders were arrested and thrown into prison. During their incarceration the mine owners claimed to have obtained "confessions" from different criminals who claimed to have helped Haywood and Moyer execute the plot.

However, at the command of Peabody (the mine owner's governor) the miners were driven from the state in 1904 (election year) at the point of the bayonet. Peabody was a candidate for re-election and the feeling was so intense among the citizens that with the miners out of the state, Peabody (Republican) was defeated by 15,000 while Roosevelt carried the state by 35,500! This shows what the people right on the ground think of the mine owners and Peabodyism. But when Peabody came to St. Louis during the World's Fair there was much ado, and he was banqueted by Dave Francis and his piratical gang.

But Gov. elect Adams was never inaugurated. He wasn't the right sort of a Democrat—that is to say, the mine owners didn't think so. And when inauguration day came around the state house was surrounded by troops. That is what you are taxed to pay soldiers for, Mr. Farmer—to serve capital. A man was seated as chief executive of Colorado who was never a candidate—a man named McDonald whom the mine owners dictated. Such is government by capitalism.

About two months ago ex-Gov. Steiensenberg, of Idaho, was assassinated. A Pinkerton detective named McFarland was put on the "case." The Pinkertons and the capitalists work hand-in-glove. Three weeks ago, at Denver, Colo., Haywood, Moyer and other labor leaders were arrested at night, bound hand and foot, put on a special train and kidnaped into Idaho.

They were not told what they were charged with. They were not allowed to see either their families or their attorneys. All forms of law were abandoned—just a plain case of kidnaping. They are now in the Idaho penitentiary charged with the murder of ex-Gov. Steiensenberg. And, last week, Eugene V. Debs, ex-labor leader and presidential candidate of the Socialist party in 1904, issued this open letter to labor:

Arouse, ye slaves! The latest and boldest stroke of the plutocracy—but for the blindness of the people—would have startled the nation. Murder has been plotted and is about to be executed in the name and under the forms of law. Men who will not yield to corruption and bribery must be ambushed, spirited away and murdered. That is the edict of the Mine Owners' Association of the western states and their Standard Oil backers and pals in Wall Street.

These gory-beaked vultures are to pluck out the heart of resistance to their tyranny and robbery, that labor may be stark naked at their mercy.

Charles Moyer and W. D. Haywood, of the Western Federation of Miners, and their official colleagues—men, all of them and every inch of them—are charged with the assassination of ex-Gov. Frank Steiensenberg, of Idaho—who simply reaped what he had sown—as a mere subterfuge to pounce upon them in secret, rush them out of the state by special train under heavy guard, clap them in the penitentiary, convict them upon the purchased, perjured testimony of villains, and then strangle them to death with the hangman's noose.

It is a foul plot, a damnable conspiracy, a hellish outrage.

The governor of Idaho and Colorado say they have the proof to convict. They are brazen falsifiers and venal villains, the miserable tools of the mine owners who, if anybody does, deserve the gibbet.

Moyer, Haywood and their comrades had no more to do with the assassination of Steiensenberg than I had; the charge is a ghastly lie, a criminal calumny and is only an excuse to murder men who are too richly honest to betray their trust and too courageous to succumb to threat and intimidation.

Labor leaders that cringe before the plutocracy and do its bidding are apothecized; those that refuse must be foully murdered.

Personally and intimately do I know Moyer, Haywood and their official co-workers, and I will stake my life on their honor and integrity; and that is precisely the crime for which, according to the words of the slinky sleuth who "worked up the case" against them, "they shall never leave Idaho alive."

Well, by the gods, if they don't the governor of Idaho and Colorado, and their masters from Wall Street, New York, to the Rocky Mountains, had better prepare to follow them.

Nearly twenty years ago capitalist tyrants put some innocent men to death for standing up for labor.

They are now going to try it again. Let them dare!

There have been twenty years of revolutionary education, agitation and organization since the Haymarket tragedy, and if an attempt is made to repeat it, there will be a revolution and I will do all in my power to precipitate it.

The crisis has come and we have got to meet it. Upon the issue involved the whole body of organized labor can unite and every enemy of plutocracy will join us. From the farms, the factories and stores will pour the workers to meet the red-handed destroyers of freedom, the murderers of innocent men and the arch-enemies of the people.

Moyer and Haywood are our comrades, staunch and true, and if we do not stand by them to the shedding of the last drop of blood in our veins we are disgraced forever and deserve the fate of cringing cowards.

We are not responsible for the issue. It is not of our seeking. It has been forced upon us; and for the very reason that we deprecate violence and abhor bloodshed we cannot desert our comrades and allow them to be put to death. If they can be murdered without cause we can, and so will we be dealt with at the pleasure of the tyrants.

They have driven us to the wall, and now let us rally our forces and face them and fight.

If they attempt to murder Moyer, Haywood and their brothers, a million revolutionists, at least, will meet them with guns.

They have done their best and their worst to crush and enslave us. Their politicians have betrayed us, their courts have thrown us into jail without trial, and their soldiers have shot our comrades dead in their tracks.

The worm turns at last, and so does the worker.

Let them dare to execute their devilish plot and every state in the union will respond with the tramp of revolution.

Get ready, comrades, for action! No other course is left to the working class. THEIR COURTS ARE CLOSED TO US EXCEPT TO PRODUCE OUR DOOM. To enter their courts is simply to be mulcted of our meager means and bound hand and foot; to have our eyes plucked out by the vultures that fatten upon our misery.

Capitalist courts never have done, and never will do, anything for the working class.

Whatever is done we must do ourselves, and if we stand up like men from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to the Gulf, we will strike terror to their cowardly hearts and they will be but too eager to resign their grip and beat a swift retreat.

We will watch every move they make and in the mean time prepare for action.

If the plutocrats begin the program, we will end it.

EUGENE V. DEBS.

During the past three weeks I have noticed that the government at Washington was active in ascertaining the number of available troops in the different states. The big papers told us we were preparing for war with China. But the Debs letter lifted the lid. Last Sunday all the capitalist papers of the country contained a dispatch from Colorado telling of the terrible confession of one Henry Orchard, implicating the officials of the Western Federation in the plot to assassinate Steiensenberg.

Similar dispatches came from New York and Philadelphia. I read my dose in the Republic. The story reminded me of a blood and thunder dime novel and occupied nearly two pages.

Orchard is a self-confessed criminal and says he executed all the damnable plots himself as the agent of the Federation leaders. No where in the

AS THINGS MIGHT BE—BUT, SOMEHOW, IT'S DIFFERENT.



—Cartoon by courtesy of St. Louis Star-Chronicle.

alleged confession does he say that any of the arrested parties had anything to do with the crimes except to plan them. He did the executing. What do you think of that for evidence on which to bind men hand and foot and drag them from their state, their homes and friends at night without a chance to see either?

Time after time have these labor leaders been arrested, shackled and thrown into prison on just such "confessions," but were always released without trial. It is feared that this time the plot is to murder Idaho is as much in the grasp of the mine owners as is Colorado.

Commenting on the situation *Wilshire's Magazine*, of New York, says: "The daily papers have been full of lies and misrepresentations, all calculated to inflame public opinion against these men; but if there was the slightest bit of real evidence, the secret arrest in the dead of night, the illegal deportation and other unheard-of methods would not have been necessary."

The Kansas supreme court has just rendered a decision to the effect that the person who sells liquor is responsible for the acts of the purchaser while under the influence of the liquor, and sustained a judgment of \$5,000 in favor of the wife of a man who had committed murder while drunk and was sent to the penitentiary for life. An Illinois court rendered a similar decision recently, and if the thing spreads the liquor traffic will become hazardous.

The supreme court refused a new hearing in the majority contest case in St. Louis and the ballots are to be counted March 21—if nothing happens. Wonder why Mayor Wells insists on keeping those ballot boxes nailed up?

Tom Lawson has got the thieves over in New York on the run. This man has accomplished wonders. Ridiculed and abused by the trust-owned press of the nation, he's got 'em going!

THE DIFFERENCE.
Some time ago E. G. Lewis started the People's bank in St. Louis. It was really a PEOPLE'S bank and was conducted on a plan entirely different from ordinary banks. Other bankers became jealous of its success. In connection Lewis also published a journal.

Since Lewis was not conducting his bank along the regular skingame line, he was reported to Washington and a "fraud order" issued denying him the right to use the mails. And the bank was thrown into the hands of a receiver.

And what do you think? After going through this expensive process there was enough left to pay the depositors in full!

Did you ever hear of anything like it? The business that the government declares a fraud pays in full when thrown in the hands of a receiver, while the banks that are conducted along approved lines pay little or nothing!

But that isn't the worst of it. Last week Mr. Lewis went to Washington to see Postmaster General Cortelyou to try to induce him to recall the "fraud order" so he could proceed to do business. Cortelyou refused to see him! After destroying his business this tyrant denied him an interview.

But, say! On the following day H. H. Rogers, boss of Standard Oil, arrived at Washington. This is the man Attorney General Hadley has been trying to get to talk. He just says, "I refuse to answer." Hewant to see the president. And you just bet the president opened the door.

The official crowd at Washington are "after the trusts" again. It always happens just before an election. If they happen to catch one—except for campaign contributions—the Kicker will tell you.

I reckon the daily papers will now give us a much needed rest on Miss Alice until the stork drops in. Then the slubber will fly again.

WARMING UP.
Things are warming up in the Democratic camp in St. Louis. The contest at the primaries will be between the Folk and the anti-Folk crowds. In other words, it will be between the old Butler-brewery-saloon crowd and the law-enforcement crowd.

There are now two Democratic organizations in St. Louis—the Jefferson club and the Democratic club. The Jefferson club has been purged of the Butler-brewery-saloon crowd and the fellows that were turned down organized what they call the "St. Louis Democratic club."

The main fight seems to be for the control of the members of the state committee from St. Louis. In the twelfth ward the brewery crowd want John R. McCarthy, a Butler beeler, for state committeeman, and in the tenth the reelection of Charles Lemp is desired.

Of course the brewery crowd will make a strong fight for control of both parties, but they can't use the police as they used to, and the Folk followers are in control of the city committee.

The Kicker would advise the voters to keep cool and await the line-up. A whoop 'em up campaign is never productive of good results. People can use better judgment by being calm and gradually making up their minds as matters develop.

If Niedringhouse is retained by the Republican organization and Lemp continues to hold his job with the Democrats, it will be a very bad sign. But we will not know about this until after the meetings of the two state conventions.

The Republican State Committee met in St. Louis Saturday and selected Excelsior Springs for the State convention on May 31 and Jefferson City for the Judicial convention on July 26.

You will read of more millionaires than paupers committing suicide these days. They can't stand being "found out."

A PAIR OF FRAUDS.

A general strike among the coal miners is billed for April 1, and the press dispatches say that "Gompers pledges Mitchell aid."

Samuel Gompers is president of the American Federation of Labor, and John Mitchell is president of the United Mine Workers of America. The two control the action of hundreds of thousands of laboring men—and get big pay from the laborers for bossing them.

Gompers votes the Republican ticket and Mitchell votes the Democratic ticket. In all the big strikes either one or the other—or both—are at the front.

Did you ever hear of either of them being imprisoned for contempt? Did you ever notice the trust-owned metropolitan news papers refer to them as "walking delegates" or "monarchsists?"

No?

Well, then, why not? Has it ever occurred to you that these two men are traitors to labor and really the tools of capital and owe their positions at the head of labor organizations to the deceptive influence of the capitalist press?

Did you ever hear of them winning a strike? Do strikes not generally end in the utter rout of labor, or else by submitting the matter in dispute to be arbitrated by a bunch of capitalist judges—just what the masters want?

Any fool ought to be able to see this. And quite a respectable number of the labor element is beginning to see it. At elections Gompers lines up on one side and Mitchell on the other, and in this way laboring men are coerced to the polls to cancel each other's votes, while capitalists a solid vote for men that stand for a "business administration."

But that is the trouble with labor. Capital is so cunning and unscrupulous that in every organization its spies are present. And these frequently work to get at the head, and labor is continually following false leaders.

Farmers in the rural districts are no better off. They are kept disorganized, and all efforts to organize are decry by the men who profit by farming the farmer. During campaigns one of their number in each community who has influence is "fixed," and he cunningly leads his neighbors to the slaughter pen.

SEEMS A LITTLE HARSH.

The three convicts who planned their escape from the penitentiary a few months ago, killed one guard and wounded others were tried at Jefferson City last week and were sentenced to hang.

These convicts were tried about a month ago and resulted in a hung jury. At that trial the court instructed the jury that separate verdicts should be rendered—that is to say, one might be sentenced to hang, another to a term in the penitentiary, and the other acquitted.

At the retrial, last week, the court instructed the jury that if one was guilty all were guilty.

This seems to me a little harsh. Of course all were convicted and no doubt very bad men. But we have very bad men outside the penitentiary—lots of them. To constitute murder in the first degree the act must be premeditated, deliberate, and with malice aforethought. All of these must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

I only glanced over the testimony and cannot say much about it, but it appears that only one of the convicts committed murder. How the elements of malice thought of before, premeditation or deliberation could be established against the men who did not kill, I fail to understand.

The joke of the season is that of President Shonts, of the Clover Leaf Railroad being also the president of the Panama Canal commission. Everybody knows that the railroads don't want the canal, and here is a railroad president chairman of the canal commission. Oh, but the "system" do work—the people.

Four St. Louis policemen have been indicted by the grand jury charged with accepting bribes from Ollie Roberts, the panel worker. They were released on \$5,000 bond each. Ten policemen were suspended on the woman's testimony. These ten policemen are accused of shielding forty women thieves.

Ohio is a Republican state, but it beat so-called Democratic Missouri to the 2-cent railroad fare. At midnight Friday every railroad in Ohio began selling tickets at two cents a mile. For years such a bill has been before the Missouri legislature, but there were too many representatives with their pockets full of passes.

The fifty odd life insurance companies of the nation have several senators at Washington. The millions of farmers and laborers have none.

A CORRECTION.

On March 3 the Kicker, with reference to the minute book of the county clerk, said that at page 46 the entry that license was granted to take effect "the January 30, 1905" had been erased and the actual proceedings of the court written over it.

While copying the court proceedings last month the book happened to open at page 46 and I noticed that the unusual sentence "beginning the January 30, 1905" was missing. I could not understand it, and examination revealed what appeared to be erasures.

Monday Mr. McPheters called my attention to the page referred to and I pointed out what I considered evidence of erasure. He pointed to glue on the opposite page which, in all probability, caused the pages to become attached, causing the mutilation. I insisted that I had an exact copy as it appeared a year ago, and that it did not read the same now. He insisted that no change had been made, and the more I examined the plain it appeared that he was correct. I couldn't understand it.

Returning to my office I examined the copy I had made a year ago. There it was—"beginning the January 30, 1905." Then I began to think hard and fast to try to unravel the mystery. Presently it occurred to me that possibly my copy was taken from the court record proper and not from the minute book. Returning to the court house I found that it was so.

While I regret having made the misstatement, and would not knowingly do Mr. McPheters an injustice, yet it is not my fault that the minute book and the court record proper do not agree on so material a point. If license was granted by an outgoing court to take effect thirty days after a new court is installed, why don't the notes that were taken down red-hot from the court's order show it?

PETITIONS KNOCKED OUT.

Monday was a busy day in Benton. The dramshop petitions of A. L. Daniel, Benton, and W. H. Rains, Commerce, were up for hearing.

The first taken up was that of Mr. Daniel. Attorneys Arnold, Kingsbury and Mozley appeared for the petition and Attorney DeReign against it. There were many ladies present. Mr. DeReign asked that the petition be dismissed because the law prohibited the court from granting license to persons guilty of selling to minors. Then he produced the circuit court records and showed where Mr. Daniel had pled guilty and was fined \$50. The opposition contended that the prosecuting attorney had waived the forfeiture of the license and therefore that law ought not to apply. Evidently the court concluded that the prosecuting attorney had no right to set aside the law of the state and dismissed the petition. The Kicker has contended all along that this is the law, but this is the first time it has been applied in Scott county.

The Rains petition was next taken up and contested on the count, which resulted in the petition being seven short of a majority and license was refused. Several ladies were present from Commerce.

Tuesday the attorneys for the Benton petition asked for a new hearing on the ground that the prosecuting attorney's waiver of the forfeiture of the license silenced the law. The court set Monday for re-hearing.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE
John A. McCall, late president of the New York Life Insurance Company, died recently. The big papers made no noise about it. A short press dispatch from New York was about all there was to it.

Had this man died before he was "found out," the metropolitan press would have wasted as much slobber as it did on Miss Alice. He would have been pictured as a great philanthropist and a public benefactor. He would have "laid in state" and all the dignitaries at Washington would have attended his funeral.

But he was buried without blow or bluster—all because he was "found out."

In a Democratic primary election held in Oregon county recently, nearly two thousand votes were cast. At the general election two years ago only a little over twelve hundred votes were cast. These primaries, as conducted, are very much of a farce. Everybody votes—Republicans and all—and the Republicans that vote usually vote for the ring candidates. In fact, if it were not known that they would vote for the ring, the ring would not permit them to vote. It has happened in Scott county that the primary vote exceeded the vote at the general election. At the primary in April, 1904 the vote was 2,040. At the general election the Democratic vote was 1,470—a difference of 570 votes.

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